

Pipes from Malta: a short account of the tobacco pipes found in Dockyard Creek, Birgu



John Wood

18 Park Road, Sherington, Bucks MK16 9PG, UK

Introduction

Malta was home to the Order of Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem between 1530 and 1798, smoking being introduced into the Mediterranean during that time, around 1600 (Bent, 1893). The Order's small shipyard, or Galle Creek, later became a repair base for the Royal Navy during the British administration (1800-1974), providing dockyard facilities during times of great change such as war in the Crimea and the opening of the Suez Canal. Galley or Dockyard Creek (Fig. 1a) has been at the centre of exchange for goods and ideas throughout these times.

It was reported in *The Malta Independent* of 29 August 1993 that a clay pipe retrieved from the sea near Birgu was handed over to the Maritime Museum, which is housed in the old Naval Bakery (erected over the site of the Knights' covered slipways). However, the main information came the following year when the National Museum of Archaeology in Malta and the French Department des Recherches Archéologiques Sous-Marines (DRASM) mounted a collaborative venture. During that time they encountered adverse weather conditions which prevented the research vessel *Archéonaute* from operating outside the Grand Harbour. Consequently it was decided to explore a section of Dockyard Creek, Birgu, close to where she was moored (Fig. 1b). As a result a quantity of 18th and

19th century pottery, together with 20th-century debris mixed up by harbour activity, was found unstratified in the top few centimetres of the silt seabed, at an average water depth of 10 m, which is subject to disturbance by propeller wash. Amongst the pottery recovered was a number of tobacco pipes, some of which form the basis of this report. In all, 113 pieces of pipe were recovered, 47 of which were complete enough to reconstruct the outline.

The Museums Department, Valletta, have allocated the site code VTR 1994. The pipes have been desalinated and few have signs of marine growth. The description of these artefacts follows the terminology used by Rebecca Robinson. Illustrations and photographs are the author's. The majority of pipes appear to have been mould-made. In some cases it can clearly be seen where the two halves join. Other examples have been smoothed over to give the appearance of the clay being 'shaved'.

British or northern style pipes

Five of the finds are obviously of British or northern style which are likely to be datable. The author is grateful to Dr David Higgins for his comments which are reproduced here.

VTR 1994 256. Smooth white pipeclay, mould made. 'This certainly looks like an

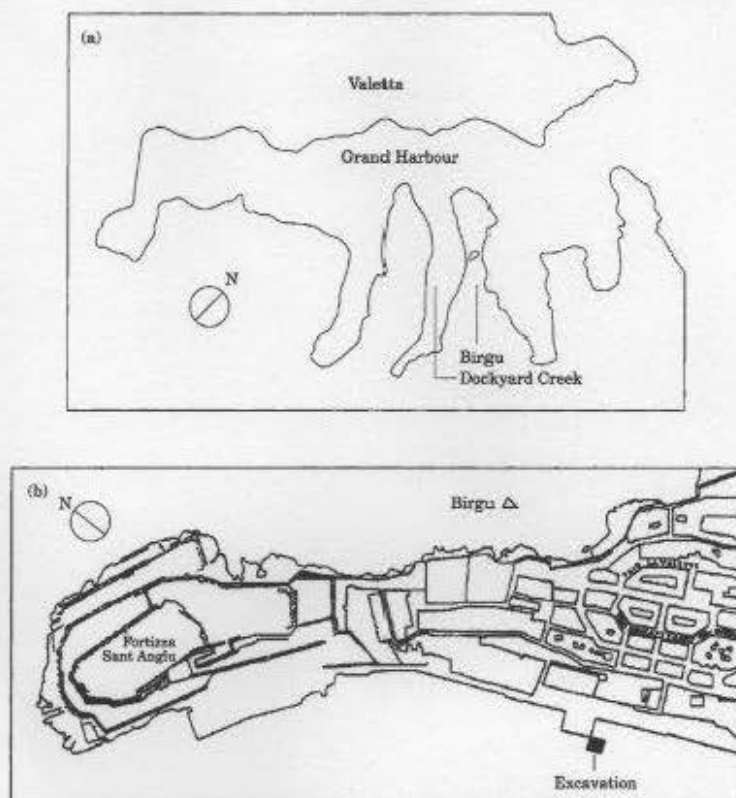
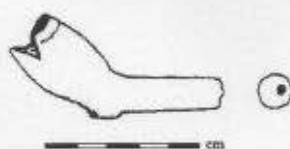


Figure 1. Map of Grand Harbour, Valetta, to show the location of the peninsula of Birgu.



English pipe, dating from circa 1660–1690. The form looks most similar to examples I have seen from the south-west, and in particular from Cornwall.'

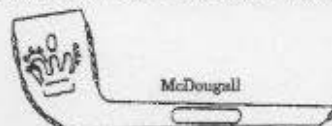
VTR 1994 100. Very thin pipeclay with stamped circle and the letters ER separating numerals 6 and 2 inside. This is an interesting piece; the bowl

form is a little hard to be sure from the drawing but it looks like circa 1710–1770 and is more likely to be from western or northern England rather than the south east. The presence of numbers with initials is unusual, although I have seen some

pipes from Venice which appear to be English but which have similar numbers added: perhaps they were export type.' In the light of a more detailed drawing Dr Higgins commented: 'This may be a London product since several different types of 18th century ER bowl stamp are recorded from there although none of these stamps are associated with numbers. The ER pipes are usually attributed to Edward Randall of London who took an apprentice in 1719.'

VTR 1994 81. Pinkish body fragment 'This does not look like a British pattern of pipe. Although fluted designs were common throughout the 19th century I have not seen one with such a pronounced ridge around the middle. This piece may have come from elsewhere in northern Europe.'

VTR 1994 53. Pinkish brown body colour with a feathered decoration front and back of bowl. The word 'McDougall' is printed



on one side of the stem and 'Glasgow' on the other. 'The McDougall pipe is a short stemmed or cutty pipe, a style that came into fashion after about 1850. Duncan McDougall & Co. were operating in Glasgow from 1846 until 1967 and the pipe could have been made at any point during this period. The design was certainly in production by about 1880 since the Thomas Davidson Junior & Co. catalogue of that date illustrates something similar. In Davidson's 1900 price list this pattern is named as the 'Prince of Wales cutty'. In an undated McDougall's catalogue there is a 'Prince of Wales (bent)', but this has the Prince of Wales feathers rather than a crown on it. This catalogue

does not have this pipe in it. The catalogue, however, only contains 197 patterns of pipe, far less than the 410 listed in their 1900 price list (not illustrated). From this it would seem that his pattern was not one of their earlier introductions. In 1891 the US required the country of origin to be placed on trade goods and many makers changed to using 'Scotland' rather than 'Glasgow'. It is not certain, however, if all moulds were changed or just those intended for export. . . . This pipe is likely to date from the last quarter of the 19th century, and to perhaps before 1891.'

VTR 1994 258. A pale pink body and impressed decoration facing the smoker, the lettering in relief. 'An 'Irish' style pipe of the type popular during the later 19th century and into the early years of this century. The most likely date is perhaps between 1860 and 1920. Some of these pipes have moulding milled at the rim. In other cases it has been added with a serrated tool after the pipe has been moulded.'

It is interesting to note that in such a small sample, types span almost the entire time from the introduction of pipe smoking around the Mediterranean until clay pipes fell out of favour around the mid-1940s.

Stub-stemmed pipes

Stub-stemmed, or reed pipes (Maltese *pipi tal-qasba*), resemble the Turkish *chibouk* and are commonly found in association with inhabited areas and trade routes across the Ottoman Empire, and also throughout southern Europe. During the days of the British administration northern-style clay pipes were imported from the UK, but the stub-stemmed

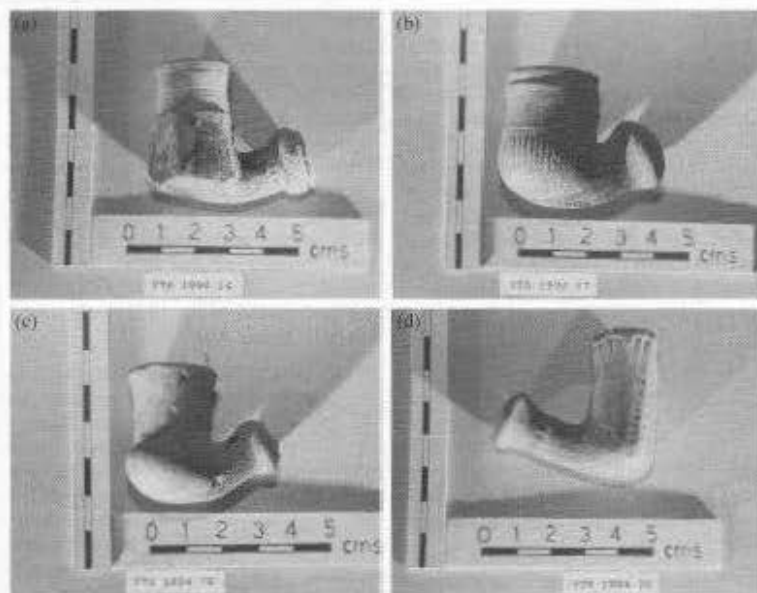


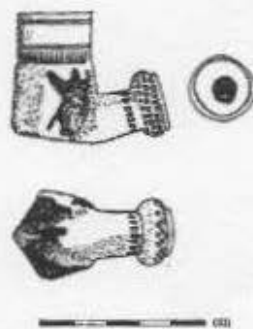
Figure 2. (a) VTR 1994 14. (b) VTR 1994 17. (c) VTR 1994 18. (d) VTR 1994 20.

Mediterranean form, comprising the bulk of this collection, had already found favour with the islanders. Indeed right up to World War II, individual North Africans were still selling red and cream coloured pipes which they brought over in sacks, together with the sweet sedge root, *Cyperus esculentus* (Lanfranco, 1994).

Catalogue

•VTR 1994 1–13. Artefacts other than pipes.

•VTR 1994 14. Shank opening 8 mm. Patchy transparent and olive-green glaze over cream body. Keel, pentagonal bowl, cylindrical rim. Horizontal lines incised on rim over a frieze of vertical spikes. Rouletting under bowl, rouletting and basketwork decoration around the shank end (Fig. 2a). Glazed pipes were not common



anywhere in the Ottoman sphere. They do, however, occur in the late 17th century in Poland (Robinson, 1985).

•VTR 1994 15. Disc fragment with a repaired break on the rim, shank end missing. Light orange clay. Zig-zag decoration



at the waist, also where bowl and keel join. The keel is similar to that on VTR 1994 104 and 110, probably the same mould. The keel joint between bowl and shank is a feature which begins in the late 17th-early 18th century, and continues in its original, or modified form, into the 20th century.

•VTR 1994 16. Rim missing. Shank opening 8 mm. Dark grey clay. Bowl with dotted decoration. Keel.

•VTR 1994 17. Shank opening 10 mm. Fine terracotta. Bowl gadrooned with rouletting on the rim and keel (Fig. 2b). Early shank openings were comparatively small, usually below 10 mm, and increased in size, up to 15 mm, even 20 mm, as tobacco became more available and cheaper.

•VTR 1994 18. Shank opening 9 mm. Made of buff clay. Flared rim, rounded bowl, keel, damaged stem socket. Undecorated (Fig. 2c). A pipe similar to this in shape and style has emerged from the wreck of HMS *Sapphire* which sank in Baybolls Harbour, Newfoundland, in 1696. It is undecorated but may be abraded. The finds from this wreck date from c. 1640 to the late 19th century but the majority of finds (78% of the English pipes) belong to the period of the wreck. Given this high percentage and the association of Mediterranean earthenware with the wreck it seems likely that these pipes do date from 1696. VTR 1994 18 is smaller than the *Sapphire* pipe which has a shank opening of 10 mm. Robinson (1985) says that 'the keel feature begins in the late 17th century'. Therefore a late 17th-century date is possible for both pipes, although intrusion on the *Sapphire* wreck cannot be ruled out entirely. A North African

origin, most likely Algeria or Morocco is suggested by the excavator^[1] (pers. comm. David Higgins).

•VTR 1994 19. Shank missing. Pale grey fabric. Diamond pattern impressed on bowl, rising to a peak on both sides of the rim.

•VTR 1994 20. Shank opening 9 mm. Pale grey 'shaved' ware. Sacklike bowl. Broken



rim, slightly flaring, with creased moulding under the lip and vertical dotted decoration. The five petalled impression on the lower bowl may be a maker's mark as it only occurs on one side. Similar in style to VTR 1994 21. 18th-19th century (Fig. 2d).

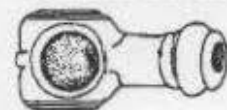
•VTR 1994 21. Shank opening 11 mm.



Faded terracotta clay. Sacklike shape, faceted and slightly flared rim, collar around the stem. Similar in style to VTR 1994 20. 18th-

19th century (Fig. 3a).

•VTR 1994 22. Missing rim. Shank opening 7 mm. Cream coloured clay. Sides of bowl flattened with incised eight-



petalled decoration inside concentric circles. Keel. Incised bands decorating the stem socket (Fig. 3b).

•VTR 1994 23. Shank opening 7 mm. Grey clay body with ochre stains. Rim missing.

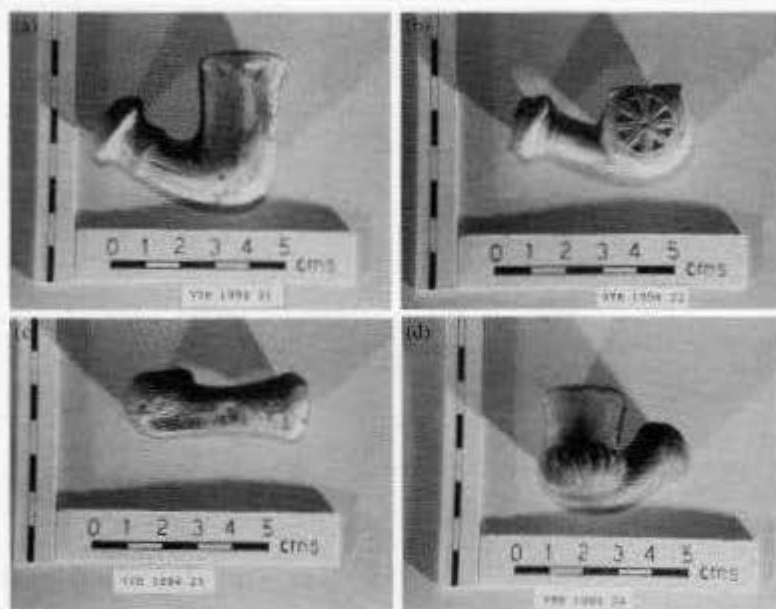


Figure 3. (a) VTR 1994 21, (b) VTR 1994 22, (c) VTR 1994 23, (d) VTR 1994 24

Broken bowl. Keel shape accentuated by dotted line. Shank end has incised and dotted bands between which are seven spotted circles (Fig. 3c). The average angle between bowl and shank is close to 65°.



cm

The approximate right angle of VTR 1994 23 would indicate a date before the mid 18th century.

•VTR 1994 24. Shank opening 8 mm. Light brown clay with greyish patches. Broken shank. Flared rim, gadrooned bowl, keel and plain collared stem socket (Fig. 3d).

•VTR 1994 25. Shank opening 8 mm. Grey clay with brownish patches. Slightly flared rim and stem. Gadrooned bowl under two horizontally incised lines.



•VTR 1994 26. Shank opening 9 mm. Slightly damaged shank. Light brown fabric with grey core. Flared rim, keel joint. Broadly milled from rim to termination to give a coarsely woven basket effect. Black flaky deposit in bowl (Fig. 4a).

•VTR 1994 27. Dark grey clay. Broken shank. Keel. Gadrooned bowl with rim which is slightly flared. Similar to VTR 1994 31, 36, 45, 74, 102.

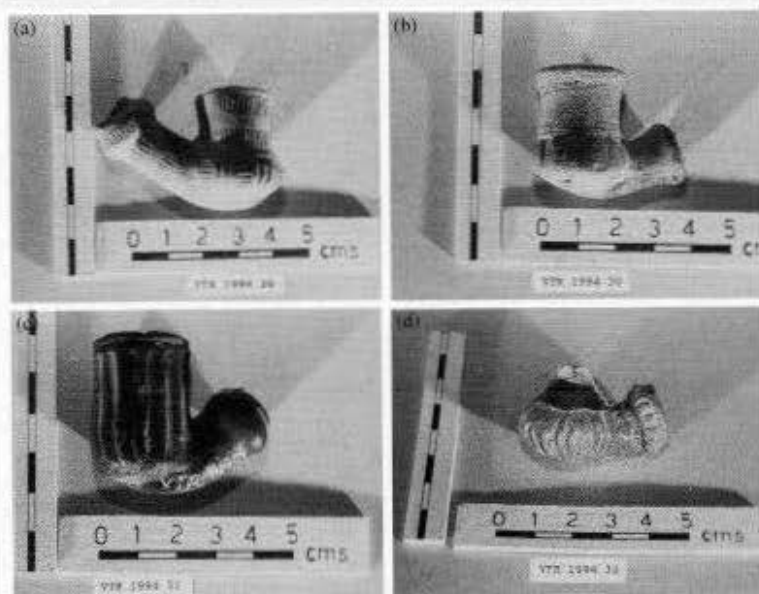


Figure 4. (a) VTR 1994 26. (b) VTR 1994 30. (c) VTR 1994 31. (d) VTR 1994 32.

•VTR 1994 28. Shank opening 9 mm. Buff clay. Broken rim. Undecorated.

•VTR 1994 29. Shank opening 7 mm. Light grey clay. Part of rim missing. dotted decoration under remaining portion.

•VTR 1994 30. Shank opening 8 mm. Light brown clay. Damaged keel. Gadrooned bowl, slightly flared rim with incised and rouletted bands top and bottom (Fig. 4b).

•VTR 1994 31. Shank opening 9 mm. Black clay. Gadrooned bowl with very slightly flared rim. Similar to VTR 1994 27, 36, 45, 74, 102 (Fig. 4c).

•VTR 1994 32. Shank opening 8 mm. Light brown clay with olive-green glaze. Broken rim, which is slightly flared over a gadrooned bowl. Gadrooned and rouletted shank end (Fig. 4d).



•VTR 1994 33. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay body. Missing rim. The damaged bowl has a band of diamond lattice studded with raised dots. Rouletted keel and shank end.

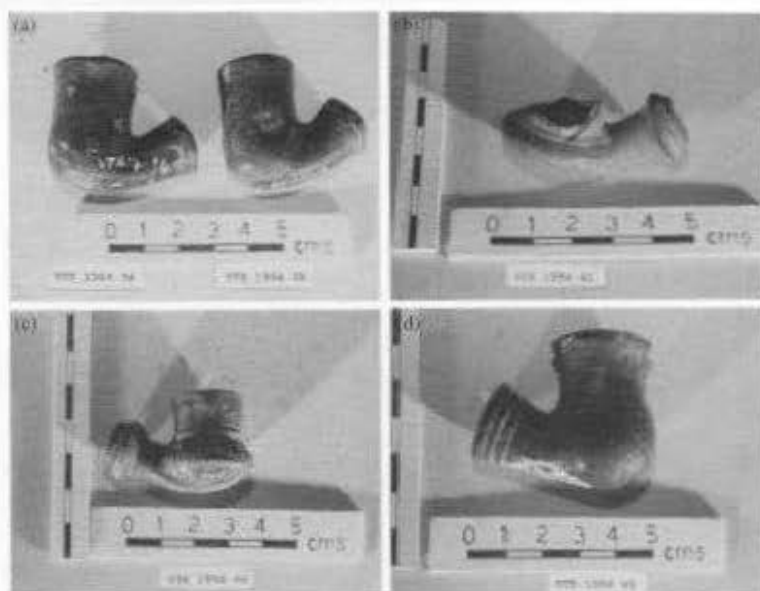


Figure 5. (a) VTR 1994 34 and 38. (b) VTR 1994 41. (c) VTR 1994 44. (d) VTR 1994 49.

•VTR 1994 34. Shank opening 8 mm. Black sacklike, 'shaved' ware. Rim is slightly flared and damaged. Undecorated except for a double incised line around the shank end, a feature common to VTR 1994 38, 40, 42, 47, 90, 94, 95, 108, 138 and Gozo 7 (Wood, 1992). 18th–19th century (Fig. 5a).

•VTR 1994 35. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay. Broken rim. Gadrooned bowl.

•VTR 1994 36. Shank opening 9 mm. Black clay. Broken rim. Gadrooning on rim and bowl. Similar to VTR 1994 27, 31, 45, 74 and 102.

•VTR 1994 37. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay. Flared rim with rouletted decoration at the base. Raised diamond decoration on the bowl. Keel.



Rouletted bands around the shank end. A practically identical but much smaller specimen exists in VTR 1994 44.

•VTR 1994 38. Shank opening 9 mm. Slightly damaged rim. Black clay. Identical to VTR 1994 34, 40, 42, 47, 90, 94, 85, 108 and 138 (Fig. 5a).



•VTR 1994 39. Shank missing. Sack shaped bowl. Undecorated. 18th–19th century.

•VTR 1994 40. Shank opening 10 mm. Broken rim. Black fabric with grey core. Very similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 42, 47, 90, 94, 95, 108, 138.

•VTR 1994 41. Rim missing. Shank opening 8 mm. Grey clay. Disc base. keel, bulbous termination. Undecorated (Fig. 5b).

•VTR 1994 42. Shank opening 9 mm. Broken rim. Black clay. Similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 90, 94, 95, 108 and 138.

•VTR 1994 43. Shank opening 8 mm. Broken rim. Dark grey clay. Gadrooned bowl, incised line around the waist.

•VTR 1994 44. Shank opening 8 mm. Slightly damaged shank. Dark grey fabric with terracotta core. A three-quarter-size version of VTR 1994 37. Rouletted bands around the shank end, keel and waist. Diamond pattern around the bowl (Fig. 5c).

•VTR 1994 45. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay with rust coloured stains. Missing rim. Fluted decoration, similar to VTR 1994 27, 31, 36, 74 and 102.

•VTR 1994 46. Shank opening 9 mm. Charcoal grey clay. Broken rim and slightly damaged keel. Gadrooned bowl below waistband.

•VTR 1994 47. Black clay. Shank missing, rim broken with some pieces jigsawed into place. Same family as VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 90, 94, 95, 108 and 138.

•VTR 1994 48. Black clay. Broken rim and shank. Keel, gadrooned bowl and flared rim.

•VTR 1994 49. Shank opening 9 mm. Black fabric with light grey core. Sacklike shape, having three plain bands around the shank end. 18th-19th century (Fig. 5d).

•VTR 1994 50. Terracotta clay. Broken rim and shank. Keel. Shank and bowl have incised and rouletted lines.

•VTR 1994 51. Shank opening 9 mm. Black clay with light brown patches. Rim broken and water worn. Sack shape bowl is decorated with a vertical zig-zag

stripe. Shank terminates in two plain bands similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 42, 47, 90, 95, 108, 138. 18th-19th century (Fig. 6a).

•VTR 1994 52. Grey clay. Broken shank. Keel, gadrooned bowl and flared rim.

•VTR 1994 54. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay with buff stains. Damaged rim edge, broken stem socket. Rouletting around shank end and between the keel and bowl. The bowl has two horizontal incised lines under inverted palms (Fig. 6b).

•VTR 1994 55. Shank opening 11 mm. Buff/grey clay. Broken rim and keel. Rouletting and incised lines around the bowl.

•VTR 1994 56. Shank opening 8 mm. Dark grey 'shaved' ware. Broken rim. Faceted bowl and shank.

•VTR 1994 57. Terracotta fabric with grey core. Missing rim, damaged shank end. Keel. Squat shaped bowl decorated with gadroons.

•VTR 1994 58. Black clay. Broken rim. Gadrooned bowl with a marine concretion.

•VTR 1994 59. Broken shank. Terracotta clay with light brown core. Disc based shape with a faceted slightly flared rim. Incised radial lines on disc base and rouletting along the keel edge (Fig. 6c). Disc-based shapes have not been noted in Malta previously but are commonly associated with Ottoman sites. This one is reminiscent of an illustration by Van Mour: *Femme Turque*, drawn 1707-1708 (Robinson, 1985: 37).

•VTR 1994 60. Broken shank. Grey clay. Gadrooned bowl with a slightly flared rim.

•VTR 1994 61. Shank opening 9 mm. Broken rim and part of shank missing. Black Clay. Gadrooned bowl.

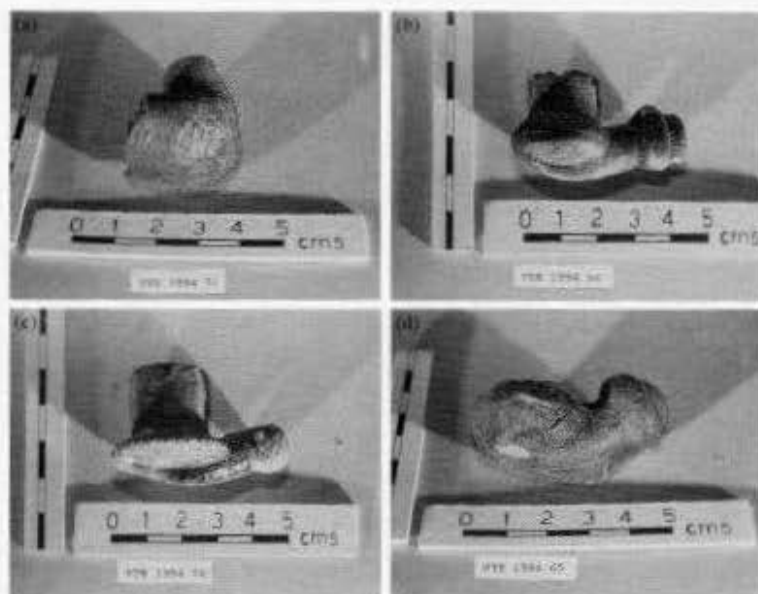


Figure 6. (a) VTR 1994 51. (b) VTR 1994 54. (c) VTR 1994 59. (d) VTR 1994 65.

•VTR 1994 62. Shank opening 8 mm. Broken rim. Black fabric with light grey core. Raised diamond and dot pattern around the bowl, below and above rouletted lines. Keel. Rouletted lines around shank end.



•VTR 1994 63. Broken rim and shank. Terracotta clay. Lattice decoration around the bowl.

•VTR 1994 64. Broken rim. Shank opening 8 mm. Black fabric with grey core. Undecorated bowl. Keel.

•VTR 1994 65. Rim missing. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay. Gadrooned bowl.



rouletted shank end. Keel with a unique extra ventral keel (Fig. 6d).

•VTR 1994 66. Missing rim. Shank opening 7 mm. Buff fabric with grey core. Water worn bowl with gadrooning. Spiral rouletting on the shank end.

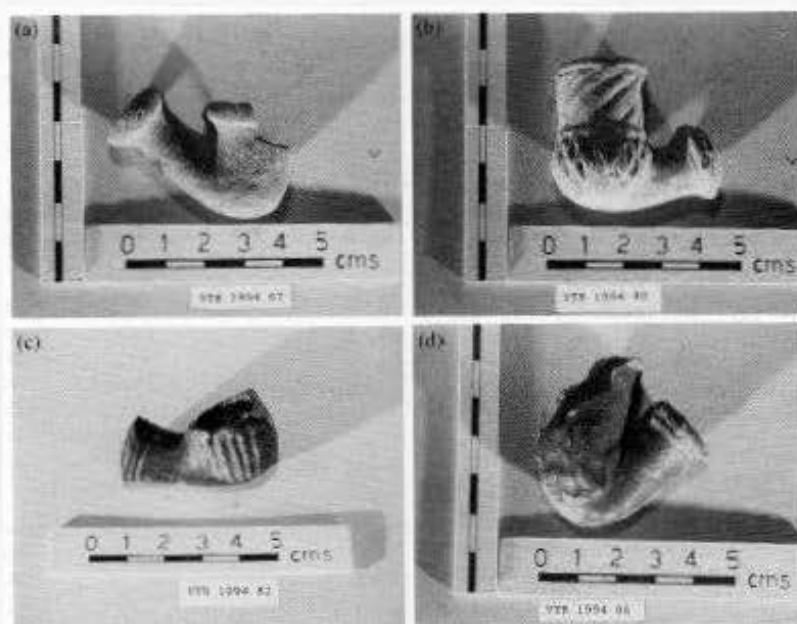
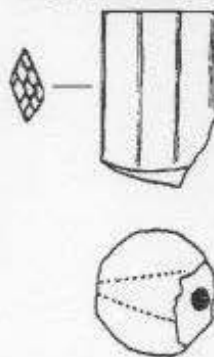


Figure 7. (a) VTR 1994 67. (b) VTR 1994 80. (c) VTR 1994 82. (d) VTR 1994 86.

- VTR 1994 67. Broken rim. Shank opening 11 mm. Buff clay, grey in patches. Short stem socket, no keel. Flared lip on the rim (Fig. 7a).



- VTR 1994 68. Shank missing, cracked rim. Light brown to pale yellow body. Bowl and rim consist of eight facets with a double vertical line incised at each corner. Impressed diamond decoration on face opposite stem socket. Rouletting between keel and bowl.



- VTR 1994 69. Rim missing, broken shank. Made of brown clay with a grey core.

- VTR 1994 70. Black clay. Undecorated bowl. Fragment.

- VTR 1994 71. Buff clay rim fragment.

- VTR 1994 72. Shank opening 8 mm. Black fabric with a light grey core. Rim broken in half, with a 10 mm-diameter five petal design on the remaining piece.

- VTR 1994 73. Grey body, buff in patches. Rim and shank broken. Rouletting around bowl at the waist.

- VTR 1994 74. Grey clay. Broken rim and stem socket. Similar in style to VTR 1994 27, 31, 36, 45 and 102.

- VTR 1994 75. Shank opening 7 mm. Black fabric with grey core. Rim missing. Gadrooned bowl under incised horizontal lines. Keel. Plain bands around the shank end.

•VTR 1994 76. Not allocated.

•VTR 1994 77. A fragment of stem socket. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay with a grey core.

•VTR 1994 78. A fragment of stem socket. Shank opening 8 mm. Dark brown clay with a grey core.

•VTR 1994 79. Small fragment of stem socket. Black clay with a grey core.

•VTR 1994 80. Shank opening 7 mm. Creamy beige body. Impressed diamond lattice decoration on the bowl with spiral edges to the rim. Flared shank end, ridged termination (Fig. 7b).

•VTR 1994 82. Rim missing. Dark grey clay. Gadrooned bowl, shank end similar in style to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 47, 90, 95, 108, 138 (Fig. 7c).

•VTR 1994 83. Rim missing. Shank opening 12 mm. Brown fabric with a grey core.



Impressed dotted pattern around bowl and stem socket with a floral boss on both sides.

•VTR 1994 84. Missing 09-06-97.

•VTR 1994 85. Rim and shank missing. A burnished terracotta disc fragment.

•VTR 1994 86. Broken rim. Shank opening 9 mm. Pale terracotta body under dark brown glaze. No keel, slightly flared rim. The four spot diamond decoration near the left shank end may be a

maker's mark. There is also a double ring of dots under the right hand lip of the rim. A lion rampant is moulded in relief on



both sides of the bowl (Fig. 7d). As a heraldic symbol the lion is in common use and on its own probably has no special meaning.

•VTR 1994 87. One of two rim fragments, now joined. Black fabric with grey core.

•VTR 1998 88. Fragment of stem socket. Shank opening 8 mm. Brown fabric with grey core.

•VTR 1994 89. Rim missing. Shank opening 8 mm. Creamy buff clay. Rounded bowl with radiating dot decoration. Keel. Gadrooned shank end (Fig. 8a).



•VTR 1994 90. Broken rim. Shank opening 10 mm. Dark grey clay with pale terracotta core. Similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 42, 47, 94, 95, 108, 138.

•VTR 1994 91. Broken rim. Shank opening 10 mm. Brown fabric with grey core. The base of the rim ends in seven pendant petals. Rouletting between bowl and keel (Fig. 8b).

•VTR 1994 92. Slightly damaged rim. Shank opening 9 mm. Black clay with smooth finish. Sacklike shape, rim slightly flared. Similar to VTR 1994 101. 18th-19th century.

•VTR 1994 93. Rim missing. Shank opening 9 mm. Dark grey with pale terracotta core. Plain bowl and stem socket.

•VTR 1994 94. Broken rim. Shank opening 8 mm. Dark grey clay with light grey core. Undecorated. Similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 42, 47, 90, 95, 108, 138.

•VTR 1994 95. Broken rim. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay with light grey core. Similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 42, 47, 90, 94, 108, 138.

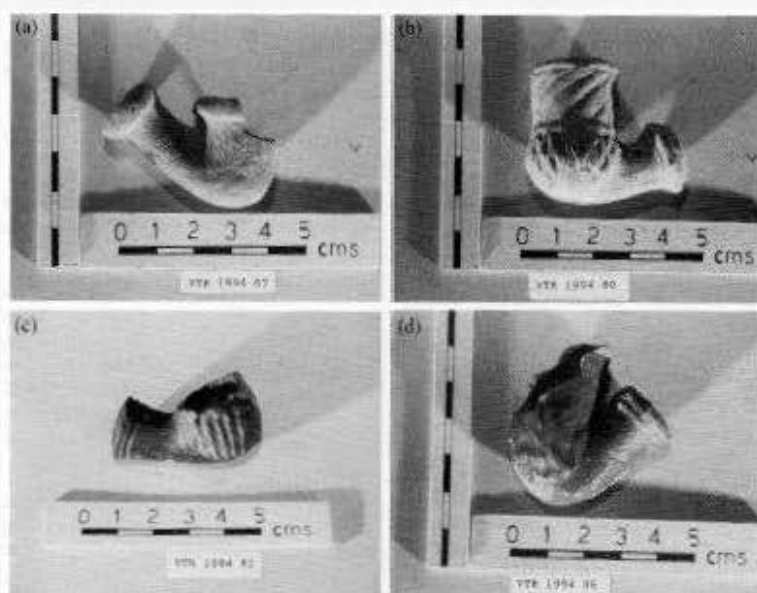


Figure 7. (a) VTR 1994 67, (b) VTR 1994 80, (c) VTR 1994 82, (d) VTR 1994 86.

•VTR 1994 96. A fragment of shank and keel. Dark grey clay with light grey core.

•VTR 1994 97. Rim missing, the artefact is in four fragments. Shank opening 9 mm. Light grey clay.

•VTR 1994 98. Shank opening 9 mm. Pale terracotta with grey core. Shank fragment.

•VTR 1994 99. Shank opening 9 mm. Cream body. The short rim is slightly flared and the round bowl rouletted between segments, under a double band of impressed circles. There are incised lines and rouletting around the shank end (Fig. 8c).



•VTR 1994 101. Shank opening 8 mm. Dark grey fabric with light grey core. Broken rim and cracked shank. A sacklike shape similar to VTR 1994 92. 18th-19th century.

•VTR 1994 102. Shank opening 8 mm. Black fabric with light grey core. Broken rim. No keel, straight bowl to rim with fluted decoration. Similar to VTR 1994 27, 31, 36, 45 74.



•VTR 1994 103. Shank opening 9 mm. Dark fabric with light grey core. Broken

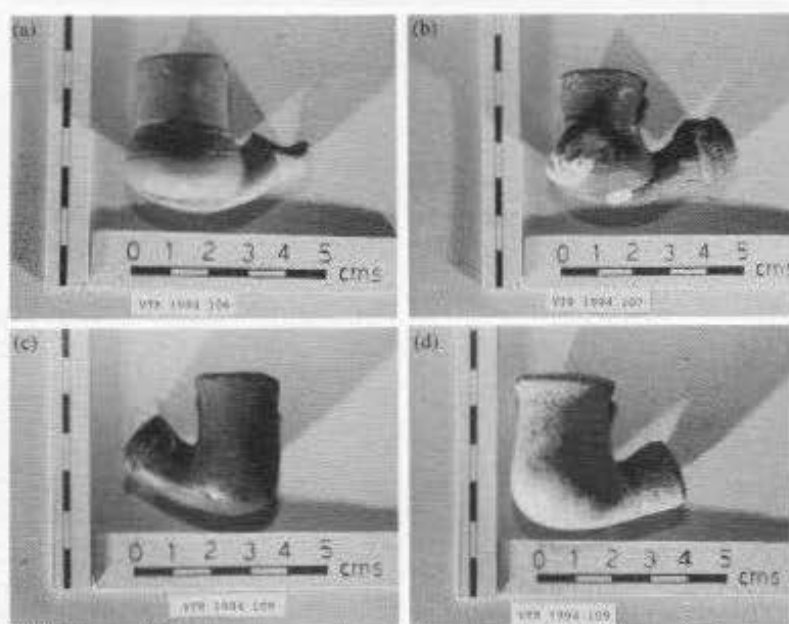


Figure 9. (a) VTR 1994 106, (b) VTR 1994 107, (c) VTR 1994 108, (d) VTR 1994 109.

rim. A plain sacklike shape. 18th–19th century.

•VTR 1994 104. Shank opening 7 mm.



Pale slip over a black clay body. Disc based with short, slightly flared broken rim (Fig. 8d). Similar

to VTR 1994 15 and 110.

•VTR 1994 105. Shank opening 9 mm. Greyish brown fabric with black core. Band of milled decoration at the waist.

•VTR 1994 106. Fine burnished terracotta clay. Slightly broken rim and shank. Rounded bowl with a band of latticework decoration on the shoulder, rouletted with incised lines at the waist. Cylindrical

rim. Keel joint to short stem socket (Fig. 9a).

•VTR 1994 107. Shank opening 7 mm. Dark fabric with terracotta core and rust coloured stains. A rounded bowl with flared rim. Moulded band and rouletting at waist, also rouletting around the keel joint and shank end (Fig. 9b).

•VTR 1994 108. Dark fabric with light grey core. Rim broken. Plain sacklike shape, slightly flaring rim. Similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 42, 47, 90, 94, 95, 138 (Fig. 9c).

•VTR 1994 109. Shank opening 9 mm. Buff with grey core. Undecorated sack shape, short stem socket and slightly flared lip (Fig. 9d).

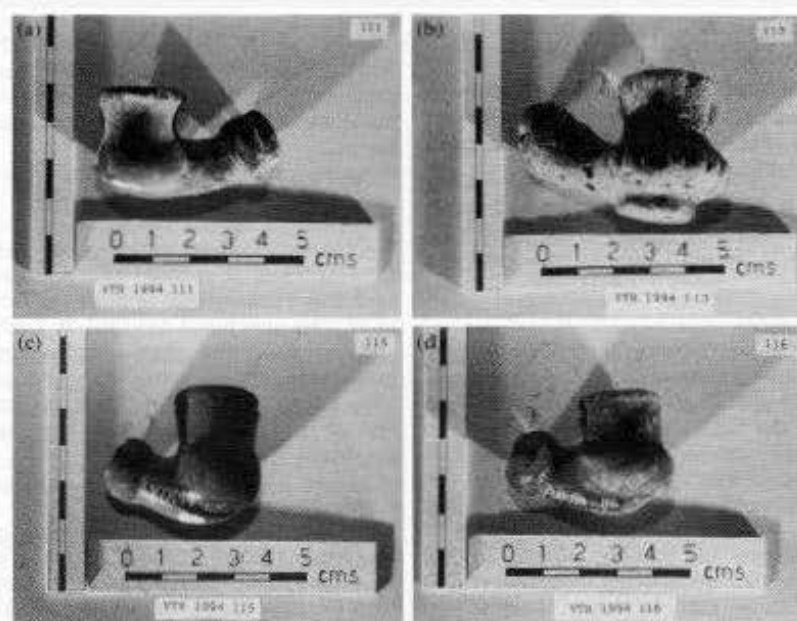
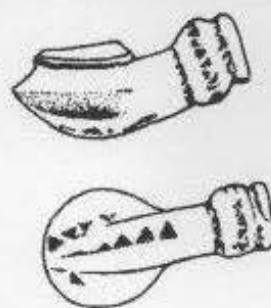


Figure 10. (a) VTR 1994 111. (b) VTR 1994 113. (c) VTR 1994 115. (d) VTR 1994 116.

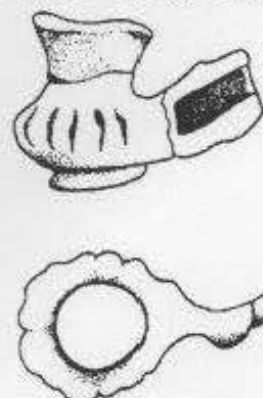
- VTR 1994 110. Shank opening 9 mm. Pale terracotta fabric with dark core. Rim missing. Disc fragment with rouletted shank end, zig-zag decoration around the waist and a very exaggerated keel similar to VTR 1994 15 and 104.



- VTR 1994 111. Shank opening 6 mm. Pale slip over a dark like VTR 1994 104, and with a similar shank end. Keel under a rouletted bowl and flared rim (Fig. 10a).

- VTR 1994 112. Black rim fragment with a light grey core. Shaved ware.

- VTR 1994 113. Dark grey flaky clay. Broken shank. Flared bowl with gad-rooning. Flared faintly moulded rim.



- 21 mm-diameter foot added out of line with the main frame. Crudely made (Fig. 10b).

- VTR 1994 115. Broken rim. Shank opening 8 mm. Thin black clay body. Rounded

bowl with gadrooning. Plain flared rim. Keel. Undecorated shank end (Fig. 10c).

•VTR 1994 116. Damaged rim and shank. Shank opening 8 mm. Black clay with grey core. Short flared rim. Rounded bowl. Keel. Plain shank end (Fig. 10d).

•VTR 1994 138. Broken rim and shank. Black clay with grey core. Similar to VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 42, 47, 90, 94, 95 and 108.

Discussion

During the Order's rule the Knights spent lavishly, the standard of living improved, new trades and industries were developed and the Island became one of the most prosperous communities in Europe. One source of wealth lay in the slave trade. The Galleys of Saint John maintained a regular *corso* (three annual cruises) in search of squadrons of Barbary pirates, against whom they were usually successful, so that the slaves used as galley oarsmen and general workforce consisted mainly of Ottoman Turks, Arabs, Berbers or Negroes who had already been enslaved on Arab galleys. The Knights belonged to a cosmopolitan order. They made military alliances with influential states such as Spain, Naples and Venice, and mutually beneficial trade arrangements with Sicily and Tunis. Therefore, given their very *raison d'être* as Christian corsairs, the Malta-based organisation would have been in contact with other tobacco users throughout the Mediterranean.

There is evidence that tobacco was widely used in Malta from the mid-16th century. In July 1673 Grand Master Cotoner and the Council of the Order of Saint John imposed a tax, the *nuovo imposto*, on consumable goods, including among other things, tobacco (Mallia-Milanes, 1993). The introduction of tobacco on the Island was at first opposed by the Order as it was feared that the plant would foul the air. However it was

introduced as a crop around the beginning of the 18th century (Blouet, 1992). Although sailors were prohibited from smoking on the galleys they no doubt made use of tobacco in their recreational time.

A significant number of pipes are broken on the right hand side, although it is conjecture to suggest this is a result of right-handed smokers knocking out stale tobacco. These pipes could have been discarded as a consequence of breakage; 66% of all pipes were found damaged. In Tunis, and perhaps other places, replacement bowls were sold in cafes already charged with tobacco. They could have become foul or they could have simply been lost overboard.

Conclusion

Charcoal colour clays make up over half of the pipes in this collection and also those in the neighbouring island of Gozo. The family VTR 1994 27, 31, 36, 45, 74 and 102, looks like a 'job lot' as does VTR 1994 34, 38, 40, 42, 47, 90, 94, 108, 138, Gozo 7 (plus another similar uncatalogued pipe), and to judge by the stem ends, also VTR 1994 49 and 82 (Figs. 5d and 7c). These latter shapes were also found at Jerusalem (Wightman, 1989) and Wadi Qash (Bell *et al.*, 1984). Certainly the disc-base pipes are recognisably Ottoman and the rounded bowls, nearly 60% of pipes here, are ubiquitous throughout the Mediterranean lands and the Middle East.

To date only three tobacco pipes found in the Maltese islands have known origins. Two of those are in a reserve collection in Gozo. One is clearly labelled 'Bonnaud Marseille'. A firm in production from 1824 to 1955; evidence of the French connection. Another has a mark of a Varna workshop (Wood, 1992). Recently another Varna product was found in an old sewer system in the Auberge de Castile, Valletta, disused after 1840 and therefore pre Crimea.¹² There is little tradition for



Figure 11.

Maltese manufacture of pipes (Lanfranco, 1994) and to judge by the variety of style and clays, most of the Birgu pipes seem to be imported. But from where? In the absence of further identification marks it is difficult to answer this question precisely.

Appendix

A note on six previously unpublished pipes found in Maltese waters.

1968

A pipe found at approximately 10 m below sea level under the RAF Air Sea Rescue buoy, at Marsaxlokk (Fig. 11), has a rusty red body colour, containing a fine grit, with a half-millimetre layer of black slip on both sides. The outside has a shiny appearance but is fairly heavily abraded. The black surfaces may be a deliberate effect, as black pipes were apparently one of the sought-after types produced in Istanbul (and perhaps elsewhere) (Robinson, 1985: 166). The abrasion is a feature of pipes found at underwater sites (*cf* also D. Higgins: SCPR 28). I am grateful to St John Simpson for his comments on this artefact (St J. Simpson, 1991).

1981

Five roughly sketched pipes, all found offshore. These pipes came either from Manoel Island, or the vicinity of Dragonara. Manoel Island was once used for quarantine. Crews from all round the



Figure 12.



Figure 13.

Mediterranean were using those facilities in the late 18th century (Mallia-Milanes, 1993).

Figure 12. This pipe has traces of green glaze, an uncommon feature, but one that is paralleled in VTR 1994 32.

Figure 13. Pipe with a three-holed grate between the rim and bowl, similar to another pipe picked up in a salt water canal on Isola Lunga, Trapani, Sicily, in 1974 and described at the time as a hashish pipe. This idea was supported in a personal communication in 1990 by J. W. Humphrey, Associate Dean at the University of Calgary, Alberta, whose work at Mytilene, Lesbos (Humphrey, 1990) produced artefacts with comparable grates and appropriately small socket diameters. Another pipe bowl with a five-holed grate, from Van, Turkey, is now in

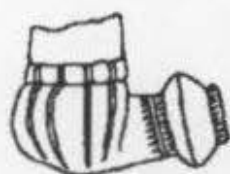


Figure 14.



Figure 15.

the British Museum (St J. Simpson, 1993). Figures 14, 15 and 16 are all fairly common forms in shape, size and decoration



Figure 16.

and are probably of a later date, possibly 19th century.

Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Anthony Pace, Acting Director of the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta, for his permission to study this collection and indebted to Reuben Grima, also of the NMA, for his help. The illustrations are by the author.

Notes

- [1] Charles Bradley, Parks Canada, 1600 Liverpool Court, Ontario K1A 0H4.
- [2] The author is grateful to Nathaniel Cutjar of the National Museum of Archaeology, Malta for this information.

References

- Bell, L., Johnson, J. H. & Whitcomb, D., 1984, The eastern desert of Upper Egypt: routes and inscriptions, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 43: 27-46.
- Bent, J. T., 1893, *Early Voyages and Travels in the Levant*, London.
- Blouet, B., 1992, *The Story of Malta*, Malta.
- Higgins, D., 1990, An earthenware pipe from the Aegean, *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter*, 28: 25-27.
- Humphrey, J. W., 1990, The Turkish clay smoking pipes of Mytilene, *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter*, 26: 2-9.
- Lanfranco, G., 1994, Old smoking pipes, *L-Imnara*, Issue 18, 5, 1.
- Mallia-Milanes, V., 1993, *Hospitaller Malta 1530-1798*, Malta.
- Robinson, R. C. W., 1985, Tobacco pipes of Corinth and the Athenian Agora, *Hesperia*, 54: 149-203.
- Simpson, St. J., 1991, Points arising, *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter*, 29: 32-34.
- Simpson, St. J., 1993, Turkish clay pipes: a review, *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter*, 39: 17-23.
- Wightman, G. J., 1989, The Damascus gate, Jerusalem. In *Excavations by C.-M. Bennett & J. B. Hennessey at the Damascus Gate, Jerusalem, 1964-66*, Bar Int. Ser. 519.
- Wood, J., 1992, Pipes from Gozo, Malta, *Society for Clay Pipe Research Newsletter*, 36: 18-31.